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### Trench Silo : A Feed Stretcher

R. A. Cave

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# TRENCH SILO

## *A Feed Stretcher*

R. A. CAVE, *Extension Dairyman*

THIS BOOK DOES  
NOT CIRCULATE

### Particularly Useful For ---

Emergencies—frost, drouth, hail—to secure highest feed value from damaged or immature crops

Feed Stability—carry surplus feed over from good years to poor years

Increased Capacity—If you have an upright silo but need more silage, increase capacity with a trench silo

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*An Acre of Fodder in a Silo  
Is Worth TWO in the Shock*

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# TRENCH SILO

## Silo Is a Feed Stretcher

One of the best ways to make the supply of livestock feed go further is to put it in a silo.

Decreasing feed supplies and increasing livestock numbers is one of the biggest problems today. The demand for meat and milk is becoming heavier and heavier as the war progresses. Feed is less abundant than it was. To keep the supply of meat and milk coming, the maximum amount of those human foods must be squeezed out of every pound of livestock feed.

## Silo Doubles Feeding Value

An acre of corn fodder made into silage is worth approximately twice the same acre cut and fed dry in the bundle. Experiment station tests show that an acre of dry corn fodder was worth only 45 per cent as much as an acre of corn silage for milk production.

For feeding steers, another experiment shows that an acre of corn silage returned \$23.07; an acre of shocked corn returned \$13.48; and an acre of ground shocked corn, \$6.68.

## Sorghums, Corn, Sweet Clover Make Good Silages

Sorghums make excellent silage if allowed to mature until the seeds are ripe. Cut too immature, sorghum silage may be sour and unpalatable.

Corn and sorghum which does not mature before frost, makes fairly good silage if allowed to dry somewhat before putting into silo.

Sweet clover silage offers a good opportunity to increase protein in the ration. Probably not more than half the feeding value of sweet clover is realized the way the crop is handled in South Dakota. Ask your county extension agent how to make sweet clover silage.

Its feeding value could be greatly increased if made into silage when two to three feet high. Sweet clover silage contains nearly four times as much digestible protein and considerably more total digestible nutrients than good corn silage.

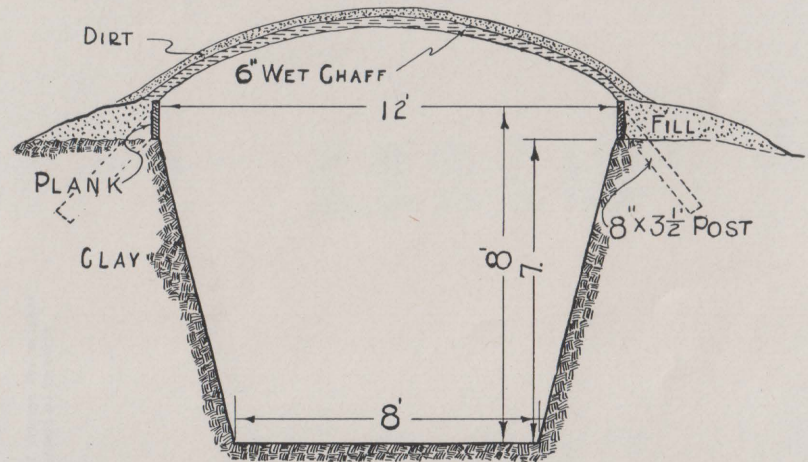
## Spoilage Low in Trench Silo

Spoilage in a trench silo is very low—although not as low as in upright silos. A survey of 319 South Dakota trench silo owners showed an average spoilage of only 5.9 per cent. Freezing is less in trench silos.

A trench silo is inexpensive and easy to construct. Principal danger is lack of drainage. Building in a side-hill will provide good drainage.

No blower is necessary in filling. It is advisable to use an ensilage cutter, cutting rather fine. A roughage mill may be used in place of an ensilage cutter. In filling, pack thoroughly, especially near the walls. Add water unless the fodder is immature and green.

To allow for settling, round ensilage four feet above ground in filling. Dirt is the best covering. If the silage is to keep more than a year, use 10 inches to a foot of dirt. Wet down the dirt to make an air-tight seal.



This shows how to build, fill and seal a trench silo. These are the usual dimensions. Dig trench two feet long in this size for every mature cow to be fed.

For complete silo information, see Ext. Circ. 264, "Pit and Trench Silos," Available at county extension agents.

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